

Program Mission

The mission of the North Carolina Criminal Justice Fellows Program is to recruit talented high school seniors and graduates into the criminal justice profession. Each year this program will fund fellowships for individuals who have exhibited high academic achievement, a history of service to their school and community, and a desire to serve the state of North Carolina in a field within the criminal justice profession.

The North Carolina Criminal Justice Fellows Program will provide forgivable educational loans to participants who agree to enter an eligible criminal justice profession in North Carolina. This Fellowship will fund an Applied Associates Degree in Criminal Justice or other Committee approved field of study from any North Carolina Community College. Recipients who receive the educational loan would have five (5) years to repay, though it would be forgiven if they enter and remain in an eligible criminal justice profession within an eligible North Carolina county for four (4) years.



Additional Information

- Applicants are encouraged to begin establishing relationships with agencies they plan to seek employment with.
- This program is meant for those intending to enter an eligible criminal justice profession after earning their associate degree.
- This program is not meant for those intending to pursue a bachelor degree immediately after completing their associate degree.
- Fellows accepted into the program must graduate within two (2) years with their associate degree and remain employed in an eligible profession in an eligible county for four (4) years.
- If a fellow chooses to work for a state agency they must request the agency post them in an eligible county

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North Carolina Criminal Justice Fellows Program

A Criminal Justice Education & Training
Standards Commission Program

About the Program

- The program provides 100 fellowships each year to students interested in a career in an eligible criminal justice profession.
- Students must attend a North Carolina Community College and must receive their Associate Degree within two (2) years.
- Students will have five (5) years to repay the forgivable loan after receiving their Associate Degree.
- The loan will be forgiven if the student enters an eligible criminal justice profession in an eligible county in North Carolina and works for four (4) years.

Application Process

- The application process opens annually on September 1st and closes on April 30th.
- The application and other program forms can be found on the Department of Justice website at www.ncdoj.gov/cjfellows.
- Applicants will be notified of their selection status no later than June 1st of each year.

Every Applicant Must Submit

- A completed application (to include an application essay describing future career goals in the criminal justice system).
- High school transcripts (GPA & class rank).
- SAT and/or ACT scores (optional)
- At least two (2) references.
- A copy of their driver's license or gov't ID.
- AOC records checks from all counties lived in/charged in.

Eligible Criminal Justice Professions

- State and local sworn law enforcement officers.
- State correctional officers.
- State juvenile justice officers.
- Other correctional officers maintained by local governments, and juvenile justice agencies.
- Sworn Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs.
- Detention Officers.
- Telecommunicators under the direct supervision of a law enforcement agency.

Applicants can reside in any county in NC and attend any NC Community College but must work in an eligible profession in an eligible county upon graduation.

Applicants must not have been convicted of a felony or any crime as outlined in the CJFP program guide.

After completion of their 2-year degree, Fellows must work for four (4) years in an eligible criminal justice profession in an eligible county.

Work-Eligible Counties

Counties with a population of < 200,000

Fellows must obtain and maintain employment in an eligible criminal justice profession in one of the following counties for four (4) years upon graduation to be eligible for loan forgiveness.

Alamance	Gates	Perquimans
Alexander	Graham	Person
Alleghany	Granville	Pitt
Anson	Greene	Polk
Ashe	Halifax	Randolph
Avery	Harnett	Richmond
Beaufort	Haywood	Robeson
Bertie	Henderson	Rockingham
Bladen	Hertford	Rowan
Brunswick	Hoke	Rutherford
Burke	Hyde	Sampson
Caldwell	Iredell	Scotland
Camden	Jackson	Stanly
Carteret	Jones	Stokes
Caswell	Lee	Surry
Catawba	Lenoir	Swain
Chatham	Lincoln	Transylvania
Cherokee	Macon	Tyrrell
Chowan	Madison	Vance
Clay	Martin	Warren
Cleveland	McDowell	Washington
Columbus	Mitchell	Watauga
Craven	Montgomery	Wayne
Currituck	Moore	Wilkes
Dare	Nash	Wilson
Davidson	Northampton	Yadkin
Davie	Orange	Yancey
Duplin	Pamlico	
Edgecombe	Pasquotank	
Franklin	Pender	

For more information please visit www.ncdoj.gov/cjfellows or email cjfellows@ncdoj.gov.